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Department of State

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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ACTION ARA-16

INFO OCT-01 AOS-00 AID-07 INR-10 SS-15 CIAE-00 ICA-11
DODE-00 H-01 IO-14 NSC-05 NSAE-00 HA-06 PM-09
PA-01 OCT-02 SP-02 SPRS-02 /102 W
------------------327002 140009Z /61

P R 132253Z APR 81
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3353
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PAN/INTAFF
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY _____ DATED _____
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED 1982

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 2812

E.O. 12065: GDS 4/13/87 (MILLSPAUGH, ROBERT) OR-P
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, PINS, ES
SUBJECT: CHALCHUAPA

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. THE SMALL TOWN OF CHALCHUAPA, LOCATED IN SOUTHERN SANTA ANA DEPARTMENT, FIRST CAME TO THE EMBASSY'S ATTENTION WHEN, FOR REASONS KNOWN ONLY TO THE GUERRILLAS, IT BECAME A MAJOR OBJECTIVE OF THE LEFTIST OFFENSIVE. SINCE THEN, IT HAS ACHIEVED ANOTHER KIND OF FAME-ACCORDING TO OUR RECORDS, IN THE MONTH OF MARCH ALONE THIRTY-FOUR PEOPLE WERE MURDERED THERE. SOME OF THE KILLINGS WERE CARRIED OUT IN WAYS THAT REVOLT EVEN ATROCITY-NUMBED SALVADORANS. TEACHERS, FOR INSTANCE, ARE A FAVORITE TARGET IN CHALCHUAPA, AND THE ENTIRE FAMILY OF ONE WAS SLAUGHTERED, INCLUDING HIS TWO TEENAGE DAUGHTERS, WHO WERE FOUND RAPED AND WITH THEIR BREASTS CUT OFF.

3. ONE [redacted] TALKED WITH LABOR ATTACHE ON APRIL 8. THE INDIVIDUAL [redacted] IS ATTEMPTING TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY, AS, HE SAID, ARE MANY OF CHALCHUAPA'S RESIDENTS. HE RECALLED THREE DAYS OF TERROR DURING THE LEFTIST OFFENSIVE AND THE SCORES OF DEAD PRODUCED BY STREET FIGHTING. ACCORDING TO [redacted] MOST OF THE GUERRILLAS WERE OUTSIDERS, BUT A FEW TOWNSPEOPLE JOINED THEM THE GUERRILLAS, HOWEVER, HAVE NOT BEEN ACTIVE IN THE AREA SINCE THE OFFENSIVE.

4. WHAT CHALCHUAPANS FEAR NOW IS NOT A NEW ATTACK. BUT A KNOCK ON THE DOOR IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT SAID HE SPENDS THE HOURS OF DARKNESS LYING AWAKE, HOPING TO LIVE UNTIL DAWN. HE DESCRIBED ALL OF THE RECENT VICTIMS AS "GOVERNMENT SYMPATHIZERS." WHEN ASKED WHETHER THE SECURITY CORPS COMMITTED THE KILLINGS, HE ANSWERED, "IT IS THE DEATH SQUAD, AND THE PEOPLE BELIVVE THE SECURITY CORPS ARE INVOLVED." HE THOUGHT THAT THE MOTIVES FOR THE MURDERS COULD BE CHARACTERIZED AS A COMBINATION OF REPUDIATION OF GOES POLICIES AND OF INABILITY TO DISTINGISH A REFORMER FROM A GUERRILLA.

5. COMMENT:

Security forces kill complete family in Chalchuapa, Santa Ana in April, 81

WHY WOULD SECURITY FORCES KILL GOVT SYMPATHIZERS? I can only assume it means attacks of rightists against EDS or those who may have taken advantage of land reform.

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